

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating and maintaining N database instances in accordance with a template, said method comprising:
- creating the template based on design information, said creating the template implemented by a template manager;
  - storing the template in a template manager database, said storing the template implemented by the template manager;
  - generating the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N instances, said control information including configuration control information, said configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said N at least 2, said generating the N instances implemented by the template manager;
  - storing the N instances in the template manager database, said storing the N instances implemented by the template manager; and
  - transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting the N instances implemented by the template manager.
2. The method of claim 1, said control information further including administrative information.

1 3. The method of claim 2, said administrative information being location dependent.

1 4. The method of claim 2, said administrative information being location independent.

1 5. The method of claim 1, said control information comprising access control information, said  
2 access control information identifying at least one access control group for each instance of the N  
3 instances, wherein if a plurality of access control groups are associated with a given instance then  
4 each such access control group of the plurality of access control groups has an independent level  
5 of access control relating to the given instance.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

obtaining the design information, said obtaining implemented by an agent; and  
transmitting the design information to the template manager, said transmitting the design  
information implemented by the agent.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

obtaining a portion of the control information, said obtaining implemented by an agent;  
and  
transmitting the portion of the control information to the template manager, said  
transmitting the portion of control information implemented by the agent.

1 8. The method of claim 1, said transmitting the N instances comprising transmitting the N  
2 instances to the corresponding N locations over telephone lines or cable lines.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 refreshing the template based on update design information, said refreshing the template  
3 implemented by the template manager;

4 refreshing the N instances based on the refreshed template, said refreshing the N instances  
5 implemented by the template manager; and

6 transmitting the N refreshed instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting  
7 the N refreshed instances implemented by the template manager.

8 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising providing the update design information to the  
9 template manager, said providing the update design information implemented by an agent.

1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 refreshing M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said  
3  $M \leq N$ , said refreshing the M instances implemented by the template manager; and

4 transmitting the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations, said transmitting  
5 the M instances implemented by the template manager.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing the update control information to the  
2 template manager, said providing the update control information implemented by an agent.

[illegible]

1 13. A computer system for generating and maintaining N database instances in accordance with a  
2 template, said computer system comprising a template manager and a template manager  
3 database, said template manager adapted to:  
4 create the template based on design information;  
5 store the template in the template manager database;  
6 generate the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N  
7 instances, said control information including configuration control information, said  
8 configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said  
9 N at least 2;  
10 store the N instances in the template manager database; and  
11 transmit the N instances to the corresponding N locations.

12 14. The computer system of claim 13, said control information further including administrative  
13 information.

1 15. The computer system of claim 14, said administrative information being location dependent.

1 16. The computer system of claim 14, said administrative information being location  
2 independent.

1 17. The computer system of claim 13, said control information comprising access control  
2 information, said access control information identifying at least one access control group for each  
3 instance of the N instances, wherein if a plurality of access control groups are associated with a  
4 given instance then each such access control group of the plurality of access control groups has  
5 an independent level of access control relating to the given instance.

1 18. The computer system of claim 13, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted  
2 to:  
3 obtain the design information; and  
4 transmit the design information to the template manager.

1 19. The computer system of claim 13, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted  
2 to:  
3 obtain a portion of the control information; and  
4 transmit the portion of the control information to the template manager.

1 20. The computer system of claim 13, wherein to transmit the N instances comprises to transmit  
2 the N instances to the corresponding N locations over telephone lines or cable lines.

1 21. The computer system of claim 13, said template manager further adapted to:  
2 refresh the template based on update design information;

3 refresh the N instances based on the refreshed template; and  
4 transmit the N refreshed instances to the corresponding N locations.

1 22. The computer system of claim 21, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted  
2 to provide the update design information to the template manager.

1 23. The computer system of claim 12, said template manager further adapted to:  
2 refresh M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said  $M \leq N$ ;  
3 and  
4 transmit the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations.

5 24. The computer system of claim 23, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted  
6 to provide the update control information to the template manager.  
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1 25. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer  
2 readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code including a template manager  
3 adapted to:

4 create a template based on design information;

5 store the template in a template manager database;

6 generate N database instances based on the template and on control information for the N  
7 instances, said control information including configuration control information, said  
8 configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said  
9 N at least 2;

10 store the N instances in the template manager database; and

11 transmit the N instances to the corresponding N locations.